



Washington State Department of Agriculture News Release

For immediate release: Jan. 13, 2004 (04-02)
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WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
P.O. Box 42560, Olympia, and Washington 98504-2560

Apple maggot quarantine hearing to be held in Ellensburg Jan. 27

OLYMPIA – The Washington State Department of Agriculture is proposing measures to protect major apple production areas in Eastern Washington from spread of apple maggot.

The department is proposing to establish a quarantine in Kittitas County for apple maggots – effective Aug. 16, 2004 – as a result of 26 apple maggot flies being trapped in the Ellensburg area this past summer. A public hearing on the proposal will be held at 11 a.m. Jan. 27 in the Washington Cattlemen's Association conference room at 1301 N. Dolarway Rd., Ellensburg.

The proposal will ensure that commercial apples will continue to be shipped outside the county when accompanied by a certificate issued by the state Department of Agriculture. The certificate will either state that no apple maggot flies were trapped within a half-mile of the orchard shipping the fruit, or that flies were caught within a half-mile of the orchard but inspections reveal no apple maggot larvae in the fruit.

The apple maggot is a very destructive pest insect, causing extensive damage to apples, crabapples, and native hawthorns.

The 26 apple maggot flies caught in the Ellensburg area were trapped during the state's annual summer apple maggot survey of apple-producing regions.

If the proposal is approved, all of Kittitas County except for a six-square mile area in the southeast corner of the county would fall under the quarantine. The only area not under the proposed quarantine extends from the northwest corner of Wanapum Dam, south on Huntzinger Road to the Yakima County line, east to the Columbia River, north to Wanapum Dam, and west to the northwest corner of the dam. Naturally occurring barriers protect this portion of the county from apple maggot movement.

Also, as part of the quarantine, Kittitas County residents will not be able to move backyard fruit out of Kittitas County into non-quarantined Washington counties.

MORE

Apple maggot quarantine hearing– 2 of 2
Jan. 13, 2004

Persons may present material at a public hearing orally or in writing. Written material must be received no later than Jan. 27 by Henri Gonzales, state Department of Agriculture. Material may be sent by e-mail to hgonzales@agr.wa.gov; by mail at P.O. Box 42560, Olympia, WA 98504-2560; or FAX (360) 902-2094.

If the proposed quarantine amendments are adopted, their effective date would be Aug. 16, 2004, allowing sufficient time for the industry to implement the ruling.

Persons with questions on the proposed quarantine may contact Dr. Brad White, state Department of Agriculture Pest Program manager, by phone at (360) 902-2071 or e-mail to bwhite@agr.wa.gov; or visit the department's Web site at www.agr.wa.gov and click respectively on Plants & Insects, Rule-Making Activity, and Apple Maggot Quarantine.

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